

RECOGNITION OF
EXCELLENCE IN
SUPPORTING SPECIAL
EDUCATION

2020 AWARD
WINNERS

Congratulations





Honoring exceptional educators, programs, parents and students who go above and beyond what is typical and expected to positively impact and set a standard of excellence for the success of students with disabilities.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

2020 AWARD WINNERS



SEAC is mandated by the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia.

SEAC exists to advise the school board on the needs of special education students.



SEAC is composed of 21 members, including parents, teachers and community members who are appointed by the School Board and who serve in a volunteer capacity.

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LCPS Superintendent



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LCPS School Board

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

SEAC thanks the leadership of LCPS for their ongoing support of SEAC and for recognizing the value of fully including all students in the LCPS community.

INTRODUCING THE 2020 RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

General Education Teacher Winner



Hannah Peebles

Liberty ES

Outstanding General
Education Teacher



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education Teacher Award Winners





Kelly Taeschner

Cedar Lane ES

**Outstanding Special
Educator**



**Khadija
Kouiroukidi**

Brambleton MS

**Outstanding
Special Education
Teacher**

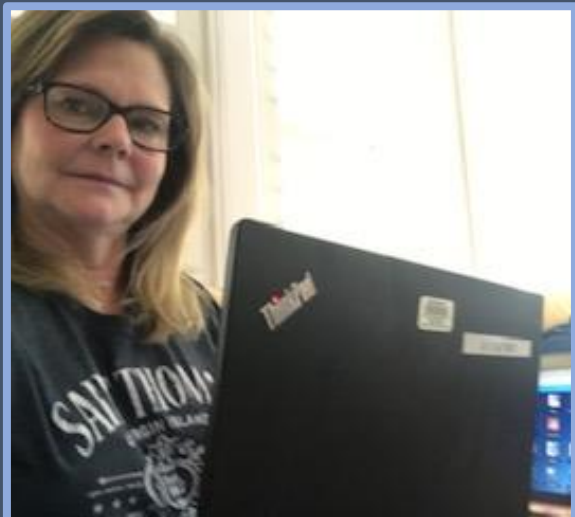




Theresa Liebler

Eagle Ridge MS

**Outstanding Special
Education Teacher**



Claudia Laugisch

Broad Run HS

Outstanding Special
Education Teacher



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Paraprofessional Winners





Daiane Hu *Belmont Station ES*
Outstanding Paraprofessional

Joe Riggio

Brambleton MS

**Outstanding
Paraprofessional**



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Inclusive
Vice-Principal
Winner



Karen Shields *Algonkian ES*
Outstanding Inclusive Vice-Principal



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Integrated General &
Special Education
Team Winner



Outstanding Integrated General and Special Education Team

Eagle Ridge MS

Anne Capsalis (SPED)

Emily Davis (SPED)

Austin Campbell (PE)

Kelley McNamee (Music/Band)

Robert Skelton (TechEd)

Sharon Davis (FACS)

Deanna Stoika (Art)

Deputy Mike Cenate (SRO)

Lisa Atkins (School Nurse)





(Continued...)

**Outstanding
Integrated General
and Special
Education Team,
*Eagle Ridge MS***

Anne Capsalis (SPED)

Emily Davis (SPED)

Austin Campbell (PE)

Kelley McNamee (Music/Band)

Robert Skelton (TechEd)

Sharon Davis (FACS)

Deanna Stoika (Art)

Deputy Mike Cenate (SRO)

Lisa Atkins (School Nurse)

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Peer Winners





Mariyah Akers

Dominion Trail ES

Outstanding Peer

“Ismail and Brooke serve as safety patrols at Rosa Lee Carter and spend their mornings (during arrival) and afternoons (dismissal) in a classroom that serves kindergarten through second grade students who have differing abilities. These two students have a wonderful way of making students with disabilities feel successful, loved, and included in the school environment.”



“...They know the students’ favorite toys, activities, and book titles. They have learned speech patterns, signs/gestures, and behaviors that a child may use to effectively communicate his wants and needs. Ismail and Brooke are adored by my students due to their dedication, hard work, and heartfelt attitude toward making every student feel important. “

Ismail Ahmed & Brooke Walton *Rosa Lee Carter ES* **Outstanding Peers**

Sariah Foy and Xavier Goldberg

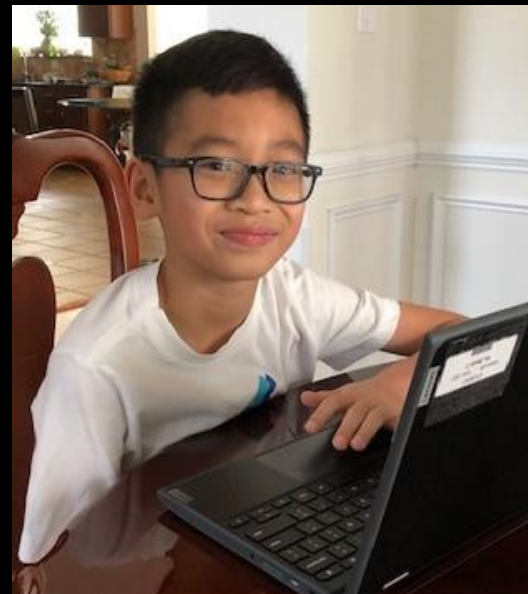
Rosa Lee Carter ES



Outstanding Peers

“Sariah and Xavier make sure that the students with disabilities feel like they are a valued and involved in the life of the school. They run up and say hello, give hugs and high fives to their peers with special needs and have been intentional in helping their peers build social, emotional, communication, fine motor, gross motor and academic skills through modeling, giving feedback, playing and interacting. On numerous occasions they have encouraged their general education peers at school to join them in play or hanging out. They have truly built friendships, memories, and bonds with diverse students at Rosa Lee Carter.”





Noora Al-Homsi
and
Devin Vo
Liberty ES

Outstanding Peers

"Noora is thoughtful, kind-hearted, compassionate, and goes out of her way to be a friend to all students. The way in which she helps students to feel valued is a true reflection of her maturity and empathy for students at all learning levels and abilities."

"Devin is patient, thoughtful and committed to his friendships—especially those with disabilities. He focuses on what makes them a unique and fun person and makes everyone feel welcome and included through his kindness and patience."

Advaith Godugu

Brambleton MS

Outstanding Peer

“Advaith goes out of his way to include all students. He looks out for his peers to make sure they are able to get their work done and be involved in different aspects of the school day. One day, a peer was nervous as he started to give an oral presentation to the class. Advaith immediately jumped in to tell the student that he was doing fine and that the class was very excited to hear what he had to share! Advaith will invite kids to sit with him and his other friends at lunch and will move to sit by kids that are unable to move or are sitting alone. Advaith has a great sense of humor and makes sure all kids feel a part of the group and conversations.”



Maggie Miller *Stone Hill MS*

Outstanding Peer

“Maggie asked become peer support when a new student first arrived at Stone Hill. She showed the student around, helped her navigate her new schedule, and invited her to sit Maggie and her other friends at lunch to make sure she felt included.”

“Maggie made sure her new friend felt very special on her birthday. Maggie and many other peers dressed in the student’s favorite color, decorated her locker and presented her with a gift first thing that morning. The young lady was elated and felt like she belonged at her new school and with her new friends!”





Gage Kurutz *J. Michael Lunsford MS*
Outstanding Peer

Mejd Hutchison

Trailside MS

Outstanding Peer





Mahsa Riar

Belmont Ridge MS

Outstanding Peer





Kylie Marco
and
Michelle
Balderrama-
Burgoa
Riverside HS

Outstanding
Peers

Danielle Webb
and
Charlotte Rivers
Riverside HS
Outstanding Peers

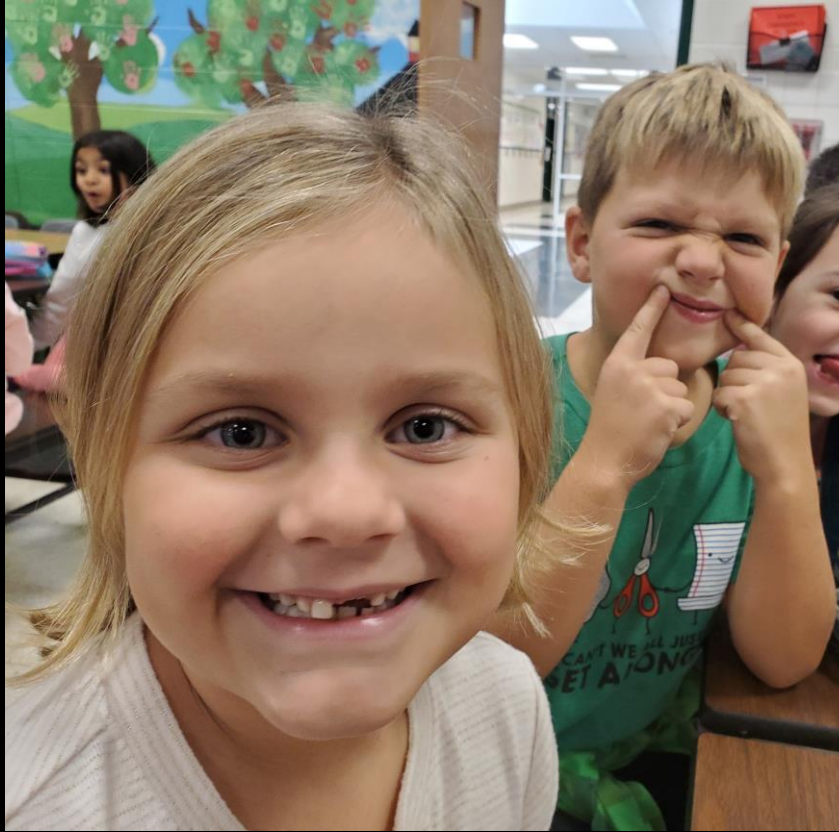


“Riverside HS 10th grade students, Danielle and Charlotte, took it upon themselves to befriend and mentor a student with Down Syndrome in their PE class. Everyday, the student was so eager to see the girls and they inspired her to participate like everyone else. Sometimes, if the activity was too challenging for the student, Danielle and Charlotte would effortlessly move to engage and play with the student independently. It brought great joy to those around to watch the girls dance and be goofy with the student just to get a smile. They made this student feel included and a valued part of the Riverside HS ‘Ramilly’.”

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Peer Group Winners





**Eleanor Dobish,
Declan O'Hearn
& John Pentin**
Hutchinson Farm ES

**Outstanding
Peer Group**

“Pen Pals...and Beyond” Program

Horizon ES

Mackenzie Brewster
Alexander Reuss
Chima Okafo
Lilly Fernandez
Riley Sparrenberger
Emma Bogoslov



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Inclusive Middle
School Sports
Team Winners





Team Fierce - Unified Basketball Team and Katherine Balanc, Coach
J. Michael Lunsford MS

Team Fierce:

Addison Rico
Avery Greenfield
Brooke Ryan
Caitlin Reichert
Carson Rico
Claire Freilich
Elijah Koshy
Ella Hill
Enaaya Bhuiyan
Gage Kurutz
Gianna Kearney
Kader Luck
Kanav Sud
Alexia DeSouza
Marzuk Bhuiyan
Mattox Flatt
Merrick Powell
Nicholas Nguyen
Peyton Roney
Riley Mullins
Rohan Kotla
Sanjay Raghavan
Sophie Merrill
Srinidhi Raghavan
Trevor Dixon
Tristan Hale



Team Fierce:

Addison Rico
Avery Greenfield
Brooke Ryan
Caitlin Reichert
Carson Rico
Claire Freilich
Elijah Koshy
Ella Hill
Enaaya Bhuiyan
Gage Kurutz
Gianna Kearney
Kader Luck
Kanav Sud
Alexia DeSouza
Marzuk Bhuiyan
Mattox Flatt
Merrick Powell
Nicholas Nguyen
Peyton Roney
Riley Mullins
Rohan Kotla
Sanjay Raghavan
Sophie Merrill
Srinidhi Raghavan
Trevor Dixon
Tristan Hale



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Inclusive High
School Sports
Team Winners



Girls Varsity Basketball Team
and
Theodore “Teddy” Whitney, Head Coach
Freedom HS

This year, the Girls Varsity Team planned and implemented a Saturday morning clinic for the Unified Basketball Team. Varsity athletes organized, planned, and facilitated the clinic. They prepared drills, stations, and a scrimmage. In addition to the friendships made and strengthened, the highlight for everyone was the impromptu dance party at the conclusion of the inclusive event.

Coach Whitney worked with the basketball coaches and Athletic Department from both Freedom and Riverside to afford both schools' Unified Basketball Teams the opportunity to compete during the halftime of their Friday Night Varsity Basketball game. The highlight for our students was sharing the bus with the Girls Varsity Basketball Team to Riverside High School.



Freedom High School

***Girls Varsity
Basketball Team:***

Anisa Bullock
Keeleigh Devitt
Emma Strohecker
Morgan Koeneke
Emily Maier
Grace FitzGerald
Marissa Vicchio
Julia Singarayer
Mia Durham
Kenzy Elias
Brenna Haley
Marielle Thyen
Grace Farrar
Hannah Clark
Rachel Koeneke
Emmy Curtis

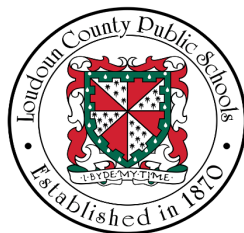


Due to the unusual circumstances of COVID-19 and the school closure this year, SEAC is postponing the awards ceremony (that normally occurs in May) to the Fall.

A recognition event will be held during one of SEAC's business meetings if circumstances permit, likely in September 2020.

Watch www.lcps.org/seac for updates.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION 2019-2020



Dr. Asia Jones
Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services

Dr. Patricia Nelson
Director of Special Education

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

SEAC wishes to thank Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services and Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education, along with their teams, for listening to the voice of the SEAC community, and most importantly, for working tirelessly to meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities in LCPS.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION

We are very proud of this year's award winners and so appreciative of their efforts to make school a good experience for all students. Thank you all for making a difference and being a wonderful example for others!

thank you

